

**TORFAEN COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
EDUCATION SERVICE**

**TORFAEN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL GOVERNORS**

**Summary of the meeting held on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2008 at 7.00 p.m. at County Hall, Cwmbran**

**Present:** A. Cowhig (Brookfield) Chairman  
Cllrs G. Caron (Llanyrafon), J. Biggs (Ysgol Gymraeg Cwmbran) and P. Seabourne (Blenheim Rd)  
Messrs N. Jones (West Mon/Kemys Fawr), S. Smith (Llantarnam), A. Tait (Hollybush/Pontnewydd), N. Jones (Woodlands), D. Weaver (Garnteg), S. Senior (West Mon), M. Osborne (New Inn), G. Barnett (Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw), M. Davis (Croesyceiliog Jnr/Infts), P. Friswell (Coed Eva Inft)  
Mesdames A. Davies (Coed Eva Jnr), Y. Balakrishnan and Rev P. Pearson (Ysgol Bryn Onnen), J. Forward (Croesyceiliog Jnr), Y. Jones (St Davids RC), J. Cresswell (Maendy), K. Ward (Brynteg Nursery), M. Morden (Ponthir)

**Also present:** Cllr J. Turner, Executive Member for Children & Young People  
Mr M. de Val, Strategic Director for Children & Young People  
Mrs T. Parsons, Head of Education HR and Governor Services  
Mr S. Waldron, Anti-bullying Development Co-ordinator  
Miss A. Jenkins, Clerk to the Association

**Apologies :** Messrs P. Levy (Oakfield), B. Whitcombe (Hillside), T, Crowhurst (Coed Eva J ) and Mrs P. Whitcombe (Hillside Nursery)

**1. Single Children's Plan**

- 1.1 MdeV gave an update on the Single Children's Plan. The Partnership has identified 7 local priorities to address in the plan. These have been agreed as multi-agency issues but MdeV stressed that schools have an input into all areas.
- 1.2 A twelve week consultation on the plan will begin on 26 February and implementation will be 30 September 2008. The draft plan will be available electronically and a series of meetings will also be held. Pupils views will also be sought via posters and user friendly questionnaires which can be completed electronically.
- 1.3 Cymorth funding will be re-allocated to address the priorities, this funding has to have evidence of progress and an impact on outcomes.

- 1.4 There was concern that with a focus on less able and disadvantaged pupils the needs of pupils in general would be lost. MdeV stressed that education was identified as a priority by the whole group and while 7 priorities had been identified locally, work on improvements to meet national statutory obligations would continue.
- 1.5 MdeV explained that maintenance was not in the priority list as this was not a multi agency issue but service specific, also Cymorth funding can not be used in this area.
- 1.6 MdeV assured governors that funding could not be diverted from the core services to fund the chosen priorities.
- 1.7 It was agreed that MdeV attend the March meeting of TASG to consult on the draft plan.

## **2. Officers/Representatives**

- 2.1 The following officers were appointed:
  - a) Chairman – Mr A. Cowhig
  - b) Vice Chairman – Mr G. Barnett
  - c) Reserve – Cllr G. Caron
- 2.2 The following TASG representatives were appointed:
  - a) Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Mr G. Barnett
  - b) Panel of Independent Governors for Disciplinary committees – Mr P. Friswell

## **3. Future of Governors Wales**

- 3.1 AT explained Governors' Wales proposals for a revised management structure. Governors agreed with the following proposals:
  - a) A Board of 44 members (2 per LEA) to act as a scrutiny committee
  - b) An Executive of 9, elected by the board
  - c) 2 co-opted members to ensure fair regional representation where necessary
  - d) the role of Honorary Life President to be reviewed and clarified

## **4. Minutes**

- 4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2007 were confirmed as a true record, subject to Ysgol Bryn Onnen representatives being added to those present.

## **5. Matters arising**

- 5.1 Funding issues will be raised at the School Budget Forum and with D. Joseph at the next TASG meeting.

- 5.2 DJo to be asked to clarify which inflation indicator was used when setting the rise for energy costs.
- 5.3 The Transport Officer is in discussions with representatives from Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw and Ysgol Gymraeg Cwmbran re concerns over buses. Governors also indicated their concern at the spelling of 'skool' on buses from Newport.
- 5.4 TP has held further meetings with the working group regarding the Disciplinary Procedures and the concerns raised by governors. Amendments will now be put to PSJC and an update issued if necessary.
- 5.5 It is expected that the post of Chief Education Officer will be advertised in the next week or two. The date of appointment will depend on the notice required from the successful applicant.
- 5.6 TP informed governors implementation date for job evaluation is now October 2008. It was agreed to invite Tina Bowen to a meeting in the summer term to provide an update and details of the staff grading system. TP told governors that funding has been set aside to meet backpay claims for school staff in the same way as central staff.

## **6. Anti-bullying strategy**

- 6.1 SW outlined his role and the work he is undertaking on an anti-bullying strategy. Governors welcomed, and agreed, a definition of 'bullying' which can include various issues not just physical. It is proposed that schools have an anti-bullying contact who will provide statistical data to provide a baseline of the situation in schools.
- 6.2 It was suggested the media be made aware of the agreed definition to avoid inappropriate headline stories. Governors were concerned at the role of the anti-bullying contact and if they would be expected to be a contact for parents and pupils. It was suggested the role should be 'co-ordinator' rather than contact.
- 6.3 SW's post is temporary at present and funded by Cymorth. If funding continues it is hoped to extend the service to provide guidance and support to schools.
- 6.4 SW offered to attend a meeting in the future to discuss the final strategy.

## **7. TASG – Aims and Objectives**

- 7.1 The Aims and Objectives of the Association were reviewed and, subject to some minor amendments regarding job titles and organisations, were approved.

## **8. Acting Chief Education Officer's Items**

8.1 There were no issues under this item

## **9. Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

9.1 There were no major issues for discussion. Members of the committee have expressed concern that insufficient time is spent on education issues at these meetings.

## **10. Governors Wales**

10.1 The AGM of Governors Wales will be held in July and governors were asked to consider any resolutions they may wish to put forward. These will be discussed at the next TASG meeting.

## **11. Referrals**

11.1 Coed Eva Junior School – Employment Protection policy: There was concern that this document takes no account of disability and equalities legislation. TP explained the policy had been accepted by the unions and all policies have an equality impact assessment, not solely looking at disability. Policies do not have to refer to specific groups. She reminded governors a redundancy relates to the post not the person. When considering a redeployment consideration would be given to any specific requirements of an individual.

## **12. Next meeting**

12.1 The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March at the earlier time of 6.30 p.m. The agenda will include consultation on the Single Children's Plan and a budget update.

## **13 Any other business**

13.1 There were no items of any other business.

**Anne Jenkins**  
**Clerk to the Association**  
**30 January 2008.**